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Original Report of
Mr. Tyler
to
Mr. Bradford

1. January 1838

filed by Mr. Tyler

T. J.

U.S. Branch Mint
New Orleans 1st Janʸ. 1838.

David Bradford Esq
Superintendant.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th Ult. requesting me to report to you the number of men employed by me in my Department of this institution. Their names. Wages and time of payment. and the monthly or quarterly estimates of the funds requisite for the same, and any information generally that I may deem serviceable to you.

In compliance with your request, I have the honour to Report. — That I have now employed in my Department, 14 Men For their names and Wages respectively annexed. I beg leave to refer you to the Pay roll. which is this day presented to you. — It will appear by that Document, that "the monthly estimate of wages for the men" in my employ is $1029.50 besides which about $200.00 may be added for Over work.

It may be proper to remark that bills have accrued since my commencement here. for which immediate funds will be required. amounting to about $1900.00. — Of this latter estimate $1750.00 is for the purchase of a quantity of Stone coal for the Steam Engine and other uses. — $180.00 for Lumber, and the remainder for sundry articles of Small amount

In engaging our hands. it has been found necessary. to hold out the prospect of a suspension of the opperations of the Mint during. three or four of the most dangerous Summer Months. as few could be found for any

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wages that I felt authorized to give) who were willing to run the hazard of the climate without the opportunity of becoming gradually acclimated. — In procuring northern workmen the alternative was presented, of offering such high wages as, (for the time they might be disposed to continue their services), would be equivalent to what they might reasonably expect for the whole year, at home. — Or, by proposing to release them for a season on an allowance of half wages. — Choosing the latter as the most eligible plan, in the absence of any express instructions on the subject, I have ventured to express my belief, to the men I have engaged, that the plan here contemplated, or some other equally satisfactory to them, would be adopted by you. — Indeed I feel assured that it was only by holding out such inducements, to them that I have been able to secure a set of very valuable hands at moderate wages

I have to regret that the lateness of my appointment; and the imperative necessity of employing my time during the last summer in completing the arrangements at Philad[a] relative to this establishment; prevented me from being present at the placing of the Steam Engine and other heavy machinery. — Considerable delay has been occasioned, and some future inconvenience may be apprehended, from the injudicious departure, of the person employed to place the said Engine and machinery, from the plan given him. For, instead of placing the engine in the middle of the Room as was intended, he has placed it 4½ feet toward the annealing furnaces, which besides destroying the symetry of the Room and violating the rules of good taste, throws the annealing furnaces away from their foundation, previously laid and settled

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rendering almost useless the room beyond, designed for Whitening, Cleaning &c — and likewise on the opposite side of the building, brings the Line Shaft intended for driving the Corning Presses, an equal distance out of its proper place. To these remarks I feel bound, to add, that the entire machinery in the principle story of the building, is found to be two inches too low for the floor. — To remedy these evils so as to leave the least possible inconvenience in our future operations, and to do it to the best possible advantage, has been a task of some difficulty, in which I have been greatly aided by the ingenuity and judgement of Gen. Gordon. to whoom every praise is due for his masterly direction of the building under all the difficulties and trying impediments attending its location and erection

The Coining presses, of which there are three of different sizes, will all require material alterations to render them efficient and durable. But the largest one may be gotten ready for temporary use in three or four weeks, and in the mean time the other two may be undergoing a more thorough preparation. Of the other machines and the minor apparatus. I need only say that the former are all of them, more or less unfinished, and that the latter require time to arrange and put them in opperation

And permit me respectfully to add that what with building of Furnaces. altering and finishing of rooms putting up the Hardening and Pumping apparatus. Organizing and Training of workmen etc. etc. etc. I shall need all the assistance and all the indulgence in your power to bestow.

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant

Rufus Tyler
Coiner